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National Forests in Your Life

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1970
Yearbook

On Friday, April 3, 1970, following 38 years with the Forest Service and 13 years as Regional Forester of the Intermountain Region, Floyd Iverson retired to an active life of traveling and gardening.

Mr. Iverson's achievements are recognized not only by those who worked with him and those who follow in his path, but by many leaders in the community and nation.

His outstanding leadership as Regional Forester was recognized in 1962 when he was presented a Superior Service Award by the Secretary of Agriculture. In 1967 he received the Distinguished Service Award of the Federal Executives Association for Utah. In 1964 Mr. Iverson was awarded the Utah State University Bridger Award for outstanding achievement in the field of conservation. He was a recipient of the American Motors Conservation Award in 1969.

An editorial published in 1967 sums up the feelings of many people who know and respect Floyd Iverson.

. . . Never before have the various and sometimes opposing demands upon the woods, ranges, streams and other resources been greater or the job so delicate in balancing these demands with basic multiple use and "greatest good" guidelines. Because of the rocky thin-soil precariousness of mountain watersheds, past neglect and poor management and special economic problems of some users, sound management has been especially sensitive the last 30 years in the Region, especially Utah and Idaho. Mr. Iverson has made difficult and touchy decisions on grazing and had them sustained on appeal. While doing what a good administrator had to do, often in the face of strong opposition, he and his staff managed also to initiate coordinated programs with stockmen, colleges and others, with increasing attention to restoring vegetation, so that in many respects the Intermountain Region leads the nation in conservation . . . . The honors to Floyd Iverson do credit to the whole agency which for years has led in esprit de corps and achievement.

Because he has worked hard these many years to make our story possible, the Yearbook for 1970 is dedicated to Floyd Iverson.

When I was in forestry school, there was much talk about the expected future demands on National Forest resources. Experts were projecting user trends into the 1970's and beyond. Some of their predictions seemed rather grim.

These gloomy forecasts were brought to mind recently when I heard a fellow forester quip: "Today is the tomorrow we worried about yesterday. Now we know why."

But is it really all that bad? I, for one, think not. While no one can deny that we are facing tremendous challenges, only the prophets of doom insist they cannot be solved.

Certainly an increased use of National Forests and demand for products has been experienced. There are enormous jobs facing us. Forest lands must become increasingly productive while accommodating more people who seek recreation and solitude. Much work needs to be done to protect and improve the environment.

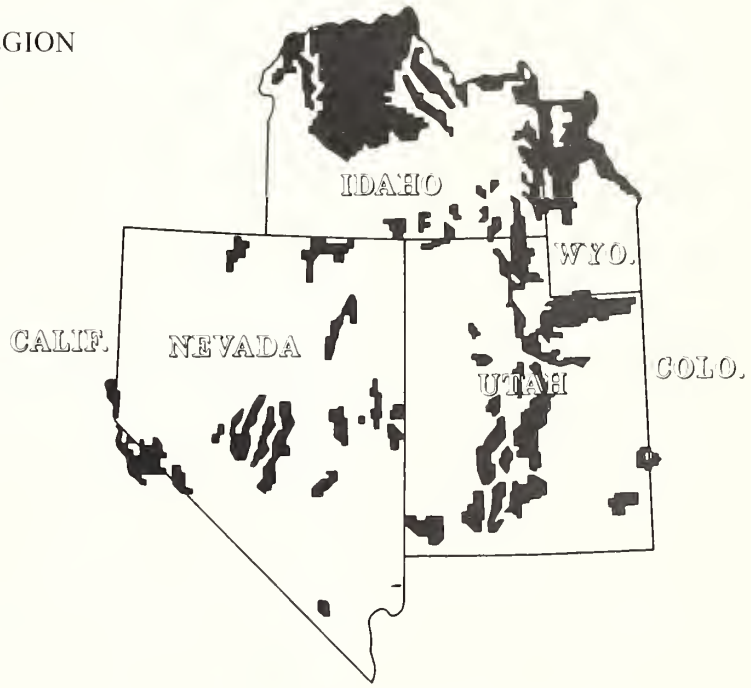
I am optimistic about the future because I believe in our land management abilities – and I believe in our American way of life. With proper planning and use, the National Forests will continue to provide wholesome outdoor recreation while meeting the heavy demands for natural resources. We can and will meet the challenge of providing a quality environment that reaches into the lives of all people.

While facing the realities of today, we continue to be concerned about tomorrow. Making sure that it arrives in good condition is our mission. How we work to fulfill this mission is what our Yearbook for 1970 is all about.

Vern Hamre

VERN HAMRE
Regional Forester

INTERMOUNTAIN REGION
FOREST SERVICE
U. S. DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE
OGDEN, UTAH



A day never passes that National Forests do not enter your life in some way – offering you recreational opportunities – fulfilling your needs as a user – or just comforting you with the knowledge that they exist.

And a day never passes that the actions of people – either directly or indirectly – do not affect National Forests. The actions may hurt or they may help. The effects may be short lived or they may be irreversible.

It is an oft-repeated fact that National Forests belong to the public and are held in trust now and for future generations by the Forest Service. This is a simplified statement of an awesome responsibility.

We believe we have done a good job through the years, but we realize that our judgment has not been always without fault. Mistakes have been made by users and by managers. But we learn from our mistakes.

Today in the Intermountain Region there are scars to erase and wounds to heal. There are also benefits to reap.

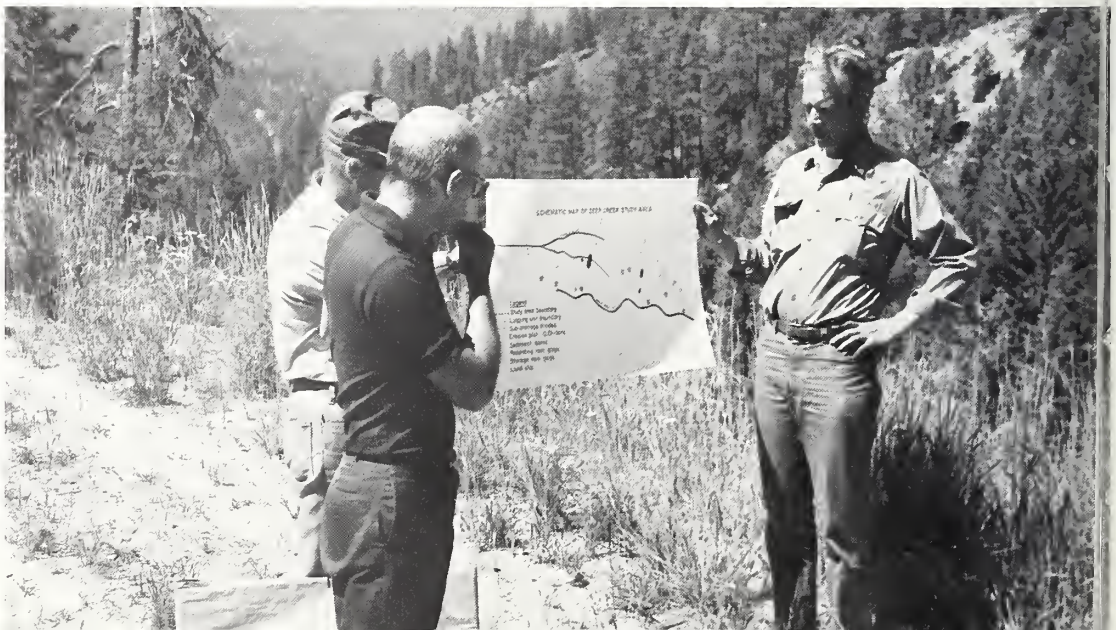
There are benefits to reap because the underlying principle of National Forest management is based on the idea that conservation means wise use. Resources must be used so there will be a continuing supply for now and for future generations.

National Forests give generously as long as we are reasonable with our requests. Unfortunately, people sometimes demand too much and their actions create environmental imbalance.

In order to prevent and solve problems involved with use of resources, the causes must be recognized. As land managers and users, we must all understand precisely how we influence our National Forests and how they in turn affect our lives.

The Forest Service cooperates with all land management agencies in marking safe routes for snowmobiles. Many snowmobile groups are working for safety and resource protection.

In the autumn of 1970 a women's conservation convocation at Redfish Lake in Idaho was co-sponsored by the Idaho Federation of Women's Clubs and the Idaho State Federation of Garden Clubs in cooperation with the Forest Service. Representatives of women's organizations, State agencies, and private industry exchanged thoughts with legislators, educators, land managers, and other interested persons. This group represents the Idaho Division of American Association of University Women, the League of Women Voters, Idaho Federation of State Garden Clubs, Idaho Federation of Business and Professional Women, and Idaho Daughters of the American Revolution.



Forest Officer discusses with interested forest users the environmental planning factors of a special area. The land being studied is part of the Idaho Batholith in central Idaho.

A Responsibility Shared

The Forest Service is responsible for managing the National Forests to provide for today's needs in a way that will assure a plentiful supply of resources and a quality environment for tommorow. That responsibility is shared with other Federal and State agencies. It is also shared with the substantial portion of people in this country who are concerned about land use decisions. Their voices are heard in public meetings and in discussions with representative groups and individuals. We welcome this contribution.

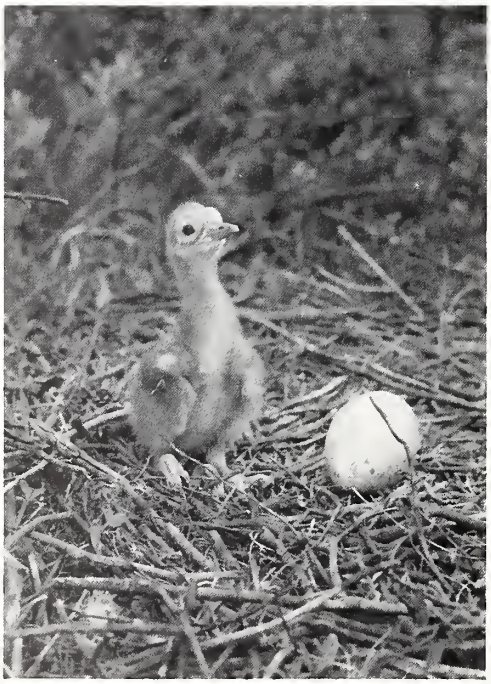
Women are taking an ever increasing interest in the world about them. They are listening and learning and teaching. Boys and girls are active in outdoor oriented groups. They are aware and concerned about their world and are participating in conservation and cleanup projects. Sportsmen appreciate the outdoors and work through their organizations to improve it. Each person has a stake in the wise management of National Forests.

In this age of environmental awareness it is popular to question and condemn all that has been done to date in the name of progress. Questioning is good, but if all activity were stopped, civilization could take giant strides backward. On the other hand, to allow uncontrolled activity would be disastrous to the natural world – including the human race.

We believe progress can be measured in National Forests not only by how well the needs of today are being met but by how well the increasing needs of our growing country can continue to be met.

The Congress recognizes that each person should enjoy a healthful environment and that each person has a responsibility to contribute to the preservation and enhancement of the environment.
Environmental Quality Act

When nature needs help



A newly hatched sandhill crane needs people who care.

Man often demonstrates his ability to meddle with nature and impose his works on the countryside. Many damaged watersheds and flooded drainage basins bear testimony to his activities. Scarred landscapes and polluted air are other evidence of man's presence.

However, all scars on the land are not the work of man. Nature, without man's help, is often self destructive. To make amends for human errors as well as for other destructive forces, the Forest Service studies damaged areas and then helps nature speed the healing process.

When wildlife habitat deteriorates, it is often a sign that the quality of man's environment is also in danger. The Forest Service works with State fish and game agencies to identify and correct the environment-destroying conditions that threaten survival of wildlife. Frequently, limiting factors must be manipulated to favor a certain species. One friend of wildlife has said that preservation to keep a species from extinction is at least as sacred as creation.

Research is underway on planning recreation areas to avoid crowding and pollution, revegetating surface mine sites, repairing damaged watersheds, planning roads, and planting trees. In many localities in the Intermountain Region, determined action is paying off in improved quality of air, water, soil and vegetation. Much work remains to be done.

A trout species from a pre-glacial era was discovered living in Pine Creek of the Humboldt National Forest in the summer of 1970. The area is being protected by a Secretary of Agriculture's U-6 Closure until research has revealed the environmental needs of the rare unnamed subspecies of cutthroat trout.

U. S. Weather Bureau meteorologists at the Boise Interagency Fire Center provide daily fire weather briefings and fire weather forecasts to Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service fire experts. These three agencies combine their talents and resources to protect all lands in the West from wildfire.

Molding the environment

The land manager of the seventies is a combination of scientist, artist, and diplomat. Forms, colors, and textures of the landscape are his media. Through scientific analysis he identifies the limiting factors of the resources — through public involvement he develops an understanding of the social and economic needs of people. Helping the land manager develop resource management programs are professionals from over 120 scientific disciplines.

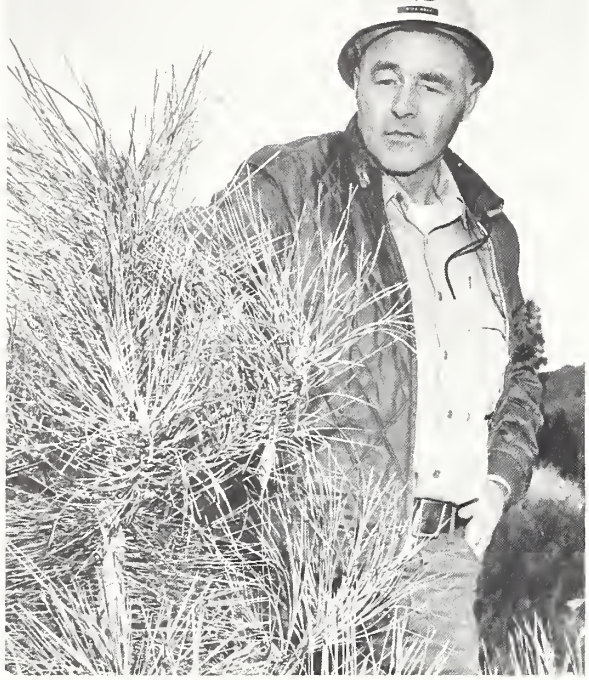
Coordinating land uses with stream improvement projects provides pure water, stable stream channels, and healthy fisheries.

Fuel breaks are located to limit fire spread. Wide strips of critical land near well-traveled roads, recreation sites, and city suburbs are treated to eliminate flash fuels while maintaining soil protection and cover.

Healthier and more productive forests are created through the science of breeding better trees in Forest Service nurseries.

The chaining of sagebrush and juniper increases palatable forage for livestock and wildlife. Range management programs balance seasons of use with forage productivity in order to sustain ground cover and maintain esthetic values. Controlled hunting seasons, set by State fish and game officials, help adjust the number of wild animals to the available food supply.

These are but a few of the ways the Forest Service manipulates environmental factors in order to fulfill responsibilities as trustee for future generations. To do so requires the understanding and support of the people.



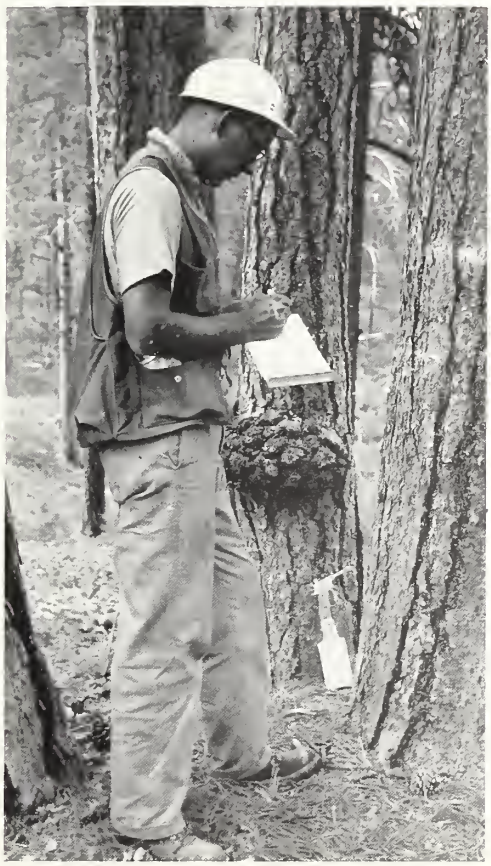
This super-tree is the result of scientific forest genetic research.

As houses are built on foothills and brush-covered slopes, wildfire becomes a constant threat. In the Intermountain Region, research is being conducted on a relatively new approach to fire prevention. Fuel breaks are created by using chemicals to kill cheatgrass and other flash fuels in wide strips between forest and dwellings.

Rangelands contribute much to the quality of man's environment. They affect the supply of water, soil, air, vegetation, wildlife and livestock. An often overlooked fact is that rangelands are an important source of clean air.

Research by the Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station has shown that interaction among wildlife species as well as interrelations of livestock and wildlife must be considered in good range management. Often livestock grazing is necessary to maintain suitable wildlife habitat. A balance between animals and available food is maintained through controlled hunts authorized by State fish and game departments.

Rules of reason

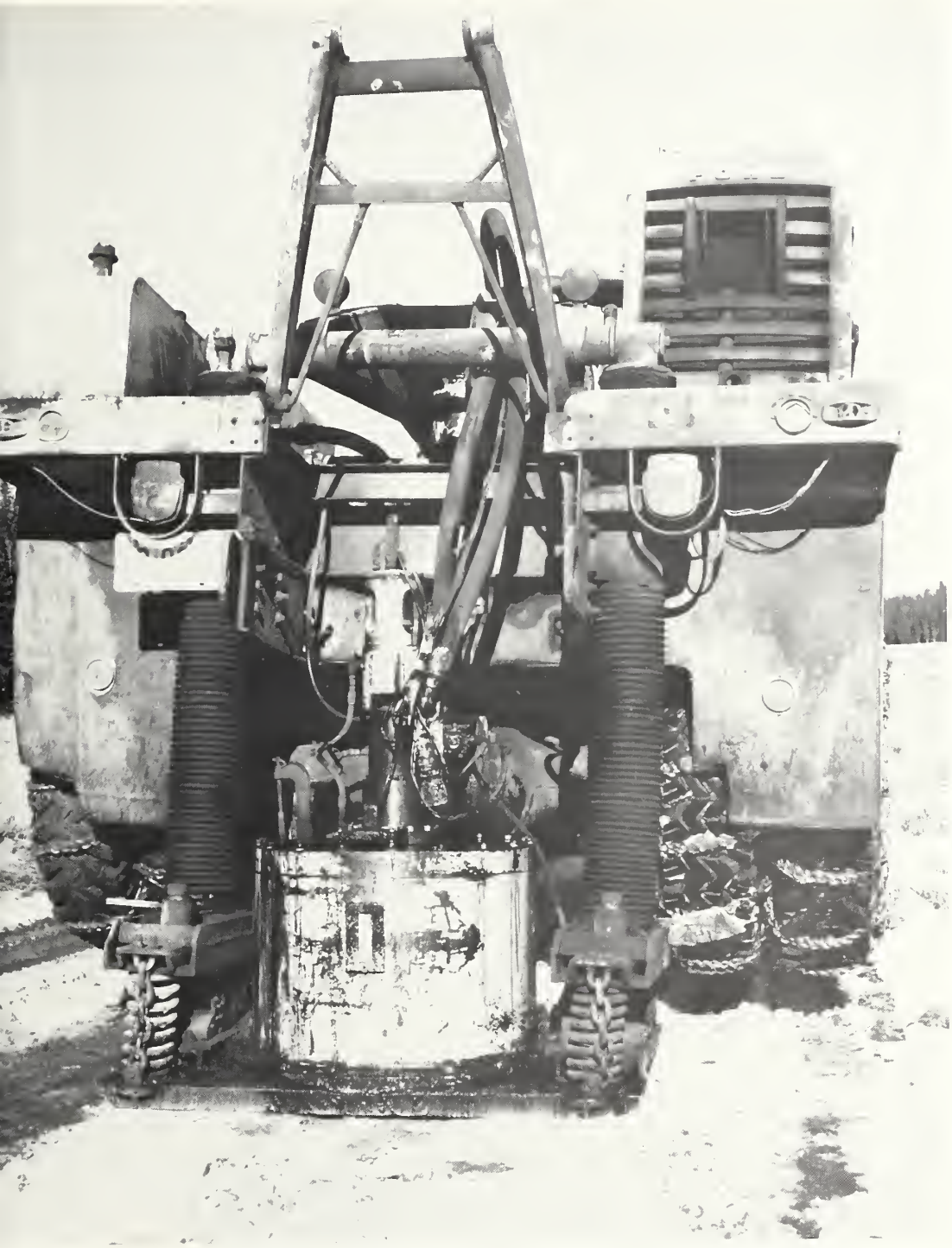


A National Forest gives generously when people are reasonable with their requests. Nowhere should the rules of reason be more carefully applied than when we are dealing with the use of natural resources.

The same resources are not found on all areas of land. In different locations and at different times there are various user combinations – scenery to enjoy, forage for grazing, water for all types of use, minerals to mine, wildlife for watching and hunting, snow for winter play, and recreation sites for summer play. Watershed values need protecting, and wilderness requires limited use. There are trees that should be harvested and trees that must be left for the future.

Forest Service personnel are guided by the rules of reason necessary for wise resource management. Needs of the people must be balanced with the natural needs of our land. Good management principles require that decisions be based on what we know today as well as what we expect for tomorrow. These decisions are not always popular.

The rusting remains of this discarded mining equipment is a dreary example of man's former insensitivity to rules of reason.



In southern Utah the oil industry is testing trucks equipped with vibrating devices that can determine whether underground oil reservoirs are present without disturbing the land surface. This impressive piece of equipment produces magnetic vibrations that are electronically measured by geophones at various distances from the machine. It covers about 5 miles each day.

Information Unlimited

Forest Service hydrologists measure stream sediment during the spring runoff to determine stability of the watershed.

People and their environment are in a constant state of change. Consequently, studies of social needs and inventories of resources are ongoing projects – never really completed. To move with change requires that we increase our scientific and social knowledge by adopting new techniques of analysis.

Scientific studies of special areas help determine what land should be set aside in wilderness for the good of all people and the degree of use the fragile wilderness environment can withstand. Timbered land is analyzed to help determine whether environmental factors make logging desirable and possible. The quality of water and the health of surrounding resources is determined through stream studies.

A team approach is used in resource studies, using research scientists, foresters, landscape architects, hydrologists, geologists, ecologists, range and wildlife specialists, and many other professional people. Together they give the land manager a better understanding of the combination of uses best suited for a forest environment.

Soil scientists use nuclear soil moisture meter to make soil moisture and evaporation-transpiration studies on National Forest lands. This nuclear soil meter makes it possible to take accurate soil moisture readings without disturbing the soil profile or making other site alterations.

What is forestry made of?

Forestry is made of many related parts. Timber management depends on good water and soil management. Wildlife and range resources are not separate – nor is recreation. The whole of forestry is greater than the sum of all these parts. It is total land management.

Trained and competent people work together to make the foundation of forestry strong. They are specialists of all types, and each is a necessary part of the Forest Service team.

The Forest Ranger is in reality a practicing environmentalist, combining geology, zoology, biology and related sciences in his everyday work. He studies the relationship of all uses and activities and relies on the professional advice and help of many specialists. He depends upon the work of skilled technicians to complete the job.

Engineers, clerks, office managers, research scientists, personnel specialists, information officers, computer operators – all of these people and more are essential to good forestry.

The Forest Ranger is a practicing environmentalist who studies the interrelationships of all resource uses. He utilizes the scientific advice of many specialists in making management decisions.

A little-known part of forestry is protecting and developing archeological finds. The remains of prehistoric cultures in the National Forests present a challenge to the Forest Service archeologist. He must identify, preserve and interpret these remains for the modern visitor's enjoyment and enlightenment.

Service for People

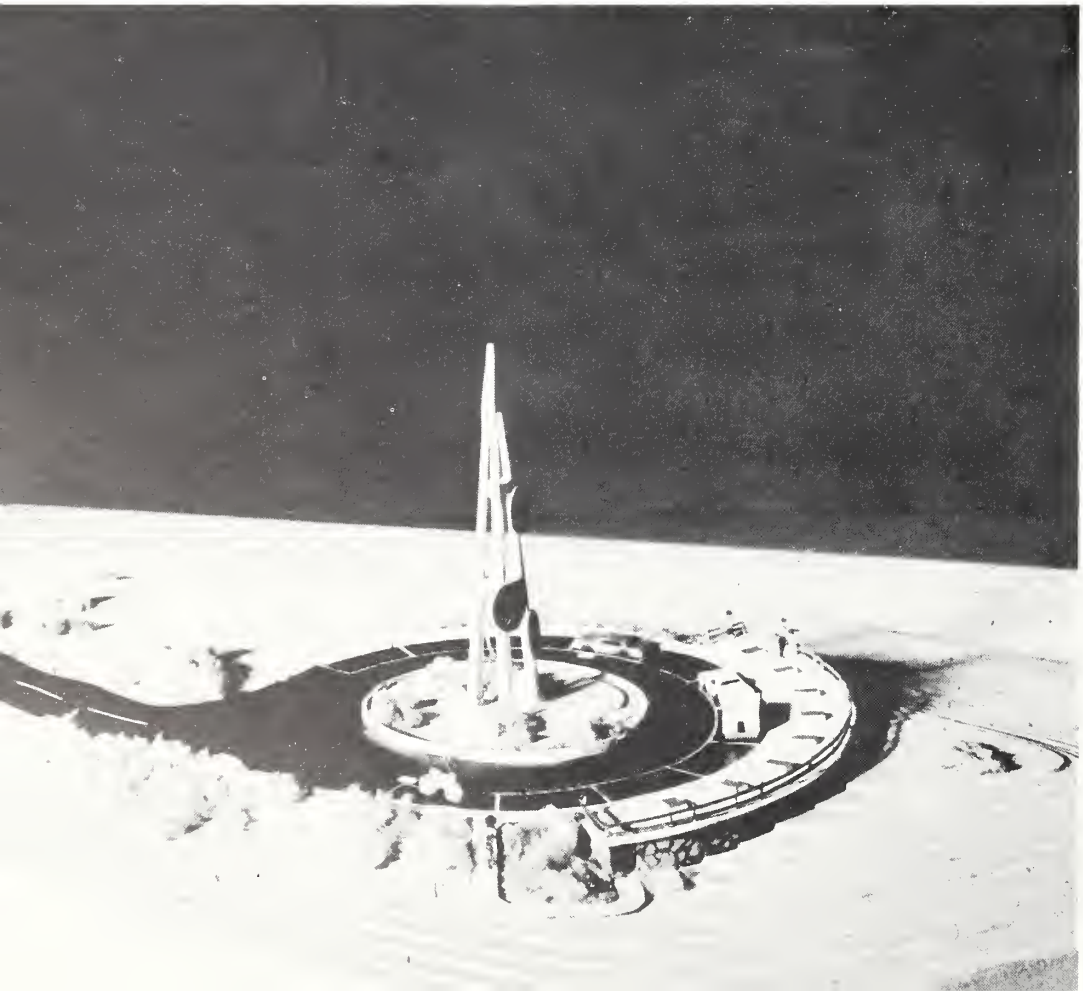
Wisdom of the ages resides in the knarled trunk and branches of the ancient Jardine Juniper in Logan Canyon. It is protected and preserved so that people can study and enjoy it.

Service wears many costumes. It can be an attractive map brochure – a helping hand in a community action program – an avalanche warning – a report on road conditions – scientific data – a clean campground. Or it can be simply providing the opportunity for a safe and pleasant visit to the outdoors.

Protecting all people from the inconsiderate acts of a few is an important responsibility of Forest Service personnel. In most cases, cooperation of forest visitors is gained by informing them of rules and regulations. These have been developed to ensure the safety of visitors while increasing the enjoyment of their outdoor experience.

All people have the right to live in a quality environment. It is the responsibility of the Forest Service and other resource management agencies to do all possible to ensure that right. Service for people includes regulating slash burning to coincide with atmospheric conditions, controlling activities near National Forests that adversely affect the environment, supervising special use permits to make sure there is use without abuse, and educating all visitors about the critical need for proper disposal of garbage.

Occasionally the opportunity is present to help people find dignity in useful employment through various Federal, State, and community programs. Students are given part-time jobs so they can remain in school, socially and economically disadvantaged groups are given on-the-job training, and this year, for the first time in the Intermountain Region, a Green Thumb Program for older workers was initiated. These opportunities not only help the employees but they provide more service to the public.



This model of a combination communication facility, visitor information center, and observation point is now built atop Monroe Peak on the Fishlake National Forest. Combining the different uses was a challenge to the District Ranger. With the help of the Forest Recreation and Lands Staff Officer and the Forest Landscape Architect, this imaginative structure was designed. It has gained the support of Federal, State and private concerns.

The facility is based on a system of pieshaped cubicles set into the ground in dugout fashion around a self-supporting tower. Over the cubicles is a concrete deck with hand railing. Exposed concrete walls are faced with native stone. When walks, steps and other prominent features are softened with native shrubbery, and information media is added, an exciting facility will be ready to serve the public.

The extraordinary scenery of the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area was enjoyed this year by millions of TV viewers across the country who watched the "Discovery" series. Featured were the Forest Ranger and his family, explaining their life in the community and the Ranger's role in resource management.

Student aids are busy meeting the many demands for movies and photographs in the Regional film library.

Green Thumb workers on the Great Basin Experimental Range.

A boy learns early in life to appreciate the value of clean water. Here a Forest Ranger shows him how to test the quality of water in a campground. This is a routine procedure conducted at all Forest Service campgrounds in the Intermountain Region.

At a seminar for educators and Forest Service personnel in 1970, many good ideas were exchanged. The educators had an opportunity to examine resource management challenges, and Forest Service personnel explained what is being done by research and administration to gain quality land management.

Big trees from little seedlings grow. These Girl Scouts will enjoy the results of their forestry work in years to come.

Our role in education

New advances in machinery and utilities make it possible for the Forest Service and industry to work together in planning necessary power and communications installations. Many lines can be buried or rerouted to reduce the visual impact they create.

PHOTO BY ROGER PUSEY

Children who learn early to understand their place in the scheme of things walk softly on the land and their imprints are light. They develop an ability to adjust to life without dominating nature. They learn that people must respect the laws of nature if they are to survive.

One major role of the Forest Service is to help with this understanding by encouraging environmental education for young people. Students and teachers, as well as school administrators, participate in Forest Service sponsored opportunities to study the outdoor world. It is important that each person understands how his activities affect the environment and how the environment affects people.

Those seeing the interrelationships in life recognize the need for total environmental planning. Land managers look from horizon to horizon and beyond, analyzing esthetic values, soils, water, air, vegetation, and animal life – while keeping in mind the total needs of people. The extra costs of working with nature to build roads and trails, to protect fishing holes, or to preserve scenery by burying power lines, are more than repaid by the resulting benefits.

1970
U.S. Forest Service
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Typical of the rugged drainage basins in the Salmon River country is this area near the Indianola Ranger Station. The river is being evaluated for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Land managers recognize the need for total planning. They look from horizon to horizon and beyond, analyzing all environmental factors that make this country what it is today and what it will be tomorrow.